[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: The people of the entire town of Dholaveer a have met the hon. Minister. No look after is being done there, which is within Minister's knowledge.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Mehta. I have asked Shri Rao to put his question.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (BERHAMPUR): Sir, it has been established for a long time that a whole massive city existed under the sea, that was what we call, the Dwaraka. Now, I would like to know, if there is any special scheme by which more work could be done. Some work has been done. We have only books and some treatises. But actually, on the spot, huge work needs to be done. Is there any special scheme like that in the Government of India? If it is not there, I think, it is worth having. I visited the place and I thought that this was something which is so important in our ancient lores and that we should do something about it. Would the Government consider it?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, as far as my knowledge goes, there is no special scheme for Dwaraka. It is a very good suggestion. The Government will consider it and take steps.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Renovation of Irrigation Projects in Orissa

*505. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are several irrigation projects in the country, which have not been properly maintained;

(b) whether some of those projects in Orissa need renovation urgently;

(c) if so, the names and details of those projects; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to renovate, maintain those projects and do construction work wherever necessary?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa have taken up Extension/Renovation/Modernisation of 19 projects namely:—

(1) Strengthening Hirakud Dam,

(2) Modernisation of Hirakud Distribution,

(3) Rushikulya Phase–I (Modernisation),

(4) Modernisation of Dhanei,

(5) Modernisation of Jayamangal,

(6) Modernisation of Salia,

(7) Modernisation of Budhabudhiani,

(8) Modernisation of Uttei,

(9) Modernisation of Saipal,

(10) Modernisation of Hiradharbati,

(11) Modernisation of Khadakhai,

(12) Modernisation of Nesa,

(13) Modernisation of Okala Distributory,

(14) Modernisation of Chowkinala,

(15) Modernisation of Salandi Canal (Das Mosa),

(16) Modernisation of Anuli,

(17) Modernisation of Pitamahal,

(18) Modernisation of Baitarani, and

(19) Modernisation of Baldiha.

Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project has been taken up with the financial assistance from the World Bank under Credit No. 2801–IN for an amount of Special Drawing Rights 194.80 Million. The credit is effective from 30-1-1996 to 30-9-2002. The project el improvements in 26 projects, namely:

(1) Mahanadi Delta Stage–I,

(2) Mahanadi Delta Stage-II,

(3) Rushikulya,

(4) Baitarani,

(5) Hirakud,

(6) Janivill Anicut,

(7) Dadaregatt,

(8) Pitamahal,

(9) Anuli,

(10) Kalo,

(11) Baldiha,

(12) Jayamangal and Jayamangal Headworks,

(13) Hirakud,

(14) Hiradharbati,

(15) Ghodahad,

(16) Pillasalki,

(17) Bhaskel,

(18) Uttol,

(19) Budhabudhiani,

(20) Rushikulya (Distributaries 2, 11, 12, 13, 14),

(21) Dhanei,

(22) Salia.

(23) Derjang.

(24) Mahanadi Delta Stage-I (Karandia & Pundalo Branch),

(25) Salandi (Charampa Canal), and

(26) Mahanadi Delta Stage-II (Gop Branch & Phutnakhara Distributory).

Improvements include works such as extension of existing canals lining in selected reaches, reconstruction of damaged structures, addition of new structures etc.

Promotion of Hindi Abroad

*506. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes being organised for the promotion of Hindi abroad during Hindi month of September, 1996;

(b) whether Indian missions are following instructions given in this regard, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any publicity programme is organised in foreign countries for use and promotion of Hindi and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the countries teaching Hindi in their Universities/ Schools and the assistance being rendered by Indian missions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d) All Indian Missions abroad have been issued instructions regarding promotion of Hindi as contained in the Annual Programme for 1996-97 on the implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India.

Special programmes are being organised for the promotion of Hindi abroad during Hindi month of September 1996 for which instructions have also been issued to all Missions. These programmes include Hindi Essay competition, Hindi noting and drafting competition, Hindi declamation contest etc., with a view to creating an atmosphere conducive to use and promotion of Hindi. For this purpose,gifts and prizes have been sent to our Missions abroad for awarding candidates declared successful in these competitions. Many Missions are also using this opportunity to promote the many facets of Indian culture as well, as Hindi and the culture of India are an integral whole of Indian ethos. In some places our missions are also organising Hindi Essay competitions and other such activities during the month of September in the Indian schools which are existing in these countries.

Indian Missions have invariably been following instructions given in this regard. However, we have identified certain thrust Missions for this year for celebrating the Hindi Week which are Paramaraibo, George Town, Port of Spain, London, Budapest, Kathmandu and Port Louis. The report on the function carried out during the month will be received from our Missions during the month of October.

In addition, the Ministry has also a well-formulated scheme for propagation of Hindi through its Missions abroad. As part of this scheme, standard Hindi Literature comprising books written in Hindi on various subjects such as Indian Culture, Literature, Language, History, Religion, Philosophy etc., are sent to local educational institutions, voluntary organisations etc., engaged in teaching Hindi. Hindi books, teaching aid materials such as charts, audio and video casettes, typewriters, computers, software etc., are also sent for presentation to such institutions. Publications in Hindi in the form of magazines and copies of "India Perspectives", "Gagnachal" etc., are also distributed to publicise and promote Hindi as a language, literature and Indian Culture.

There are many countries teaching Hindi in their Universities and Schools and an updated and detailed information on the same is being sought from various Missions abroad and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, we have provided Hindi Professors/ Teachers under the "Bilateral Cultural Programme" for teaching Hindi in Universities in Bulgaria, Indonesia, Poland, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Belgium, China, Republic of Korea, Finland, Turkey, Russia and Hungary. Selected foreign students who are proficient in Hindi are also being awarded scholarships to undergo study of Hindi in India under the "Bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme".

Supply of Paper at Cheaper Rate for Educational Purpose

*507. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding the distribution of paper at concessional rates for educational purpose;

(b) whether the Government have since stopped the aforesaid scheme;

(c) if so, when, and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revive the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) In the recent budget (1996-97) the Government have exempted excise duty on writing and printing paper used by the State Text Book Corporations/Boards and NCERT for educational purposes. This fiscal measure would ensure availability of textbooks at lower prices. It is an improvement on the scheme prevailing prior to 1990 for supply of White Printing Paper at concessional prices in that the fiscal measure facilitates decentralised procurement of White Printing Paper by States at prices lower than the open market prices.